

After vital home defeat WANDERERS TITLE HOPES LOOK SLIM

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	35	10	12	4	58	28	69
Wycombe	38	20	8	10	66	43	68
Enfield	37	19	10	8	66	40	67
Dagenham	38	16	9	13	72	60	57
Sutton	32	15	10	7	60	45	56
Leytonstone	34	15	9	10	58	46	54
Harrow	35	15	9	11	51	40	54
Tooting	40	15	6	9	48	52	51
Bromley	37	14	8	15	57	63	50
Hendon	37	13	10	14	54	64	49
Staines	37	13	9	15	52	52	48
Hayes	34	14	5	15	33	43	47
Dulwich	37	12	10	15	56	59	46
*Barking	40	12	12	16	54	68	46
Carshalton	34	13	6	15	47	41	45
Harlow	36	10	13	13	42	52	43
Leatherhead	38	10	13	15	32	44	43
Croydon	35	9	15	11	39	39	42
Walthamstow	35	12	6	17	42	61	42
Hitchin	34	11	8	15	54	50	41
Boreham Wood	35	10	8	17	43	59	38
Woking	38	10	6	22	36	81	38

* 2 pts deducted, 13 pts deducted.

WYCOMBE suffered a serious, probably mortal blow to their chances of winning the Berger Isthmian League championship with a disastrous home defeat by Hendon on Saturday.

While title challengers Slough and Enfield continued their winning ways, the Wanderers suffered their third home defeat in their last competitive game at Loakes Park this season.

An incredible miss five minutes from time by Ken Wilson prevented the Wanderers snatching a draw after they had gone two goals down in a calamitous first 13 minutes. Unlucky for some!

But Wanderers really needed to win this match — a draw would not have been good enough — to set them up for their last four matches, which are all away from home.

As expected manager Mike Keen dropped his leading scorer Terry Glynn and brought in Gary Toll, while Steve Long replaced Wilson,

who spent an hour on the substitute's bench.

However, these changes had little to do with Wycombe's disastrous start against an eager and aggressive Hendon side, who were aiming to extend their unbeaten run to nine matches.

Wycombe just could not get going and found themselves going behind after seven minutes, to what Mr Keen described later as 'a sloppy goal.'

Stunned

Hendon defender Tony Bennett was completely unmarked as he stole in to head Tom Murphy's free-kick just inside the right post. As Wycombe have never succeeded in winning from behind this season, the writing was already on the wall.

This was written in capital letters six minutes later when the Wycombe defence was caught completely open by a devastating three man move

Jock McGleish's long throughball found Paul Currie free on the left. Currie crossed the ball into the middle where the unmarked

Kevin Folan tapped it from close range. Arguably Gary Lester could have cut out the cross, but no other defender was within yards of him.

Stunned by these goals, Wycombe pressed for the rest of the half but apart from two wild efforts from Howard Kennedy never remotely threatened to score against a well-disciplined defence.

They made no further progress in the early stages of the second half before Keen brought on Wilson, for Bob Dell in an attacking gamble. His decision to replace Dell was booed by the disappointed fans, who clearly thought that several other players might have been replaced.

But Wilson's ability to play out wide immediately gave the Wycombe forward-line more variety and the Hendon defence came under increasing pressure.

Eventually it cracked. They failed to cut out Mick Hollifield's corner to the near post and Long toe-poked a close range volley to put Wycombe back in the game.

It was then that Hendon's

cynical side emerge some blatant time-tactics which led to keeper Fred Smart booked. Another d. Tony Bennett had been cautioned for tackle on Long.

Wilson mis

Hendon started to and Wycombe should have equalised in the minute when the goal could only get a h. Toll's angled shot. I rolled in front of the g Wilson, coming enormous speed, s the ball over the o. From about three y. and promptly held h in his hands.

An equaliser at that might have led to greater things, but though the referee at five minutes of st time, Wycombe were to create another cha that.

So they end their h cord with 15 wins draws and defeats. It ably the best record league — but on Sat did not seem good en

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, P. I. Bragg, R. Davies, K. Mead, R. C. Wilson (60 mins), S. Long, H. T. Toll, T. Scott, M. Hollifield.

HENDON: F. Smart, A. I. Hand, P. Deadman, P. An. Murphy, P. Currie, R. Gough, McGleish, M. Sperrin (sub: 1 mins).

Referee: E. Griffith (Londo Half-time: 0-2. Scorers: V Long (74 mins); Hendon — Folan (13).

Attendance: 708.

